

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (New): A server connected to terminals used by members via a network, the server being configured to establish and update relationships between the members, the server comprising:

a database configured to store personal attributes of each member, the personal attributes including an identification code, a name, a specialized field, and relationship coefficient data indicating degrees of relationship between each member and other members;

a message communicator configured to communicate a first message from one member to another member and configured to communicate a respective response to the first message from the another member to the one member, the response establishing a relationship between the one member and the another member;

a database update unit configured to update, when the relationship is established between the one member and the another member, the relationship coefficient data indicating degrees of relationship between (1) the one member and the another member, (2) the one member and members having relationships with the another member, and (3) the another member and members having relationships with the one member; and

a data retriever configured to identify target members having personal attributes satisfying one or more key words of a search criteria, the key words including at least a relationship coefficient data value indicating the degree of relationship between the target members and a particular member.

Claim 16 (New): The server of claim 15, wherein the key words further include the name, identification code, and a specialized field of the target members.

Claim 17 (New): The server of claim 15, wherein the key words include a minimum or maximum relationship coefficient data value indicating a maximum or minimum degree of relationship between the target members and the particular member.

Claim 18 (New): The server of claim 15, wherein a new member is granted membership when (1) an existing member enters at least the name and specialized field of the new member into a second message, and transmits the second message to the new member, and (2) the new member receives the second message, and verifies the name and specialized field of the new member.

Claim 19 (New): The server of claim 15, wherein a new member is granted membership when (1) the new member enters at least the name and specialized field of the new member into a second message, and transmits the second message to an existing member, and (2) the existing member receives the second message, and verifies the name and specialized field of the new member.

Claim 20 (New): A method of establishing and updating relationships between members using terminals connected to a server, the method comprising:

storing personal attributes of each member, the personal attributes including an identification code, a name, a specialized field, and relationship coefficient data indicating degrees of relationship between each member and other members;

communicating a first message from one member to another;

communicating a respective response to the first message from the another member to the one member, the response establishing a relationship between the one member and the another member;

updating, when the relationship is established between the one member and the another member, the relationship coefficient data indicating degrees of relationship between (1) the one member and the another member, (2) the one member and members having relationships with the another member, and (3) the another member and members having relationships with the one member; and

identifying target members having personal attributes satisfying one or more key words of a search criteria, the key words including at least a relationship coefficient data value indicating the degree of relationship between the target members and a particular member.

Claim 21 (New): The method of claim 20, wherein the key words further include the name, identification code, and specialized field of the target members.

Claim 22 (New): The method of claim 20, wherein the key words include a minimum or maximum relationship coefficient data value indicating a maximum or minimum degree of relationship between the target members and the particular member.

Claim 23 (New): The method of claim 20, wherein a new member is granted membership by the following steps:

entering at least the name and specialized field of the new member, into a second message, by an existing member;

transmitting the second message from the existing member to the new member; and

verifying the name and specialized field of the new member, indicated in the second message, by the new member.

Claim 24 (New): The method of claim 20, wherein a new member is granted membership by the following steps:

entering at least the name and specialized field of the new member, into a second message, by the new member;

communicating the second message from the new member to the existing member;  
and

verifying the name and specialized field of the new member, indicated in the second message, by the existing member.

Claim 25 (New): A human relationships registering program implemented by the server of one of Claims 15-19, wherein the server is a computer.

Claim 26 (New): A recording medium for storing the human relationships registering program of Claim 25, wherein the human relationships registering program is readable by the computer.